

Indonesia Council Digest April 2008

This is the digest of the Indonesia Council, a regional grouping within the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA). As the Indonesia Council does not have a separate fee structure, we urge those of you who find this bulletin useful or who attend the Indonesia Council's free biennial conference to become **financial members of the ASAA**. **You can now join online** at <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=594>.

The Indonesia Council Digest is circulated monthly. If you have information about conferences, Indonesia-related news, resources, job opportunities, new books etc, send it in at any time by replying to this email. Older copies of the digest can be downloaded from the Indonesia Council website (<http://indonesiacouncil.anu.edu.au/digest.php>). If you know of anyone who may like to be added to the list please ask them to contact the list moderator directly at michele.ford@usyd.edu.au. **There is now also a real-time interactive electronic version of the Digest on Facebook – the Indonesia Council Group.**

NEWS

Louise Williams, the project office on ACICIS 2008 Journalism Practicum Project writes: The JPP 2008 exceeded expectations both as an opportunity for journalism education in a new cultural setting and as a mechanism for promoting broader understanding across the often fraught Australian Indonesian divide. The program was actively supported by the Australian Embassy and Indonesian media organizations, and attracted positive media coverage and commentary in Indonesia. The 25 high performing journalism students who participated were given considerable opportunity to work professionally within these (media) organizations and returned home with a swag of by-lines, tapes and show reels. Many Jakarta-based news organizations gave students the chance to produce "special features" on the bi-lateral relationship, the most substantial of which was a 26 minute current affairs special broadcast on TVRI. **The JPP will be held again in January / February 2009, and more information will be available soon.**

Melissa Trinca writes: I am currently writing a thesis at Curtin University as part of my Honours degree in Indonesian Studies. I started learning Indonesian in primary school, continued it through higschool, TEE and onto university which I completed last year. Untill my final year of study, I was unaware of increasing prevelance of Bahasa Gaul and it's significant presence in all kinds of media, tv shows, films, magazines, emails, chat and text messages for example. I realised that when I travelled to Indonesia it was not due to my lack of Bahasa Indonesia knowledge that I could not communicate properly but because I was not aware of *Bahasa Gaul* and how it was so different to the standard foral Indonesian. As an aspiring Indonesian teacher, this topic very much caught my eye and lead me to ask questions about *Bahasa Gaul* and its place in the Upper Secondary Indonesian as a second Language Classroom. I am in the process of writing and finalising a questionnaire with which to gather material for my thesis. I would be very grateful if teachers, lecturers and students of Indonesian language could help me by filling out the questionnaire. If you are willing to participate, please contact me at [melissa trinca@hotmail.com](mailto:melissa_trinca@hotmail.com) or alternatively at mtrinca@student.curtin.edu.au.

If you're interested in the question of languages in Australia, you may wish to listen to Robin Jeffrey and Kathy Kirby on ABC Radio National .
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/nationalinterest/stories/2008/2201830.htm>. Note Kathy Kirby's take on what languages should be taught!! Seems like we need to do some more work.

RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Lyons, L., & Ford, M. (2007). Where Internal and International Migration Intersect: Mobility and the Formation of Multi-Ethnic Communities in the Riau Islands Transit Zone. *International Journal on Multicultural Societies*, 9 (2), 236-263.

While migration studies scholars have paid considerable attention to internal migration within Indonesia, as well as to international labour migration flows from Indonesia, they have rarely considered the intersections between these two processes. This article addresses this gap through a close analysis of migration flows in one of Indonesia's key transit areas – the Riau Islands. We argue that in the borderlands the processes of internal and international migration are mutually constitutive. The Riau Islands' status as a transit zone for international labour migrants and as a destination for internal migrants determines its demographic profile and policies of migration control. Bordering practices are strongly influenced by the fact that not everyone who comes to the Riau Islands has the intention of moving on, and not all international migrants returning to the Islands intend to go home. Our analysis demonstrates that internal migration cannot be understood as a solely national phenomenon, and that international migration cannot only be explained by push and pull factors in sending and receiving destinations.

Williams, S., Lyons, L., & Ford, M. (2008). It's about Bang for your Buck, Bro: Singaporean Men's Online Conversations about Sex in Batam, Indonesia. *Asian Studies Review*, 32 (1), 77-97.

Faced with the challenges of the globalised economy and changing expectations about gender roles in the public and private spheres, some men seek to reclaim power over women through the performance of a hyper-sexualised subjectivity in a homosocial online space. The Sammyboy Times – a commercial sex information site aimed primarily at a Singaporean male audience – is such a space. In its members-only forum about sex tourism to the Indonesian island of Batam, Singaporean men escape from the demands of a heteronormative expression of masculinity predicated on the reproduction of the Singaporean state. But Sammyboy provides much more than a space for the expression of an alternative, transgressive masculinity; it also allows the men to produce a localised form of brotherhood in which the men share information and look out for each other's welfare in their encounters with Batam's sex workers. While descriptions of sex acts are ever present in the forum's 'international field reports', we argue that they are a vehicle for fraternity rather than eroticism or competitiveness.

BOOKS

Chua, Christian. *Chinese Big Business in Indonesia. The state of capital.* Abingdon, Routledge, 2008.

This book assesses the state of the capital before, during and after the financial and political crises of 1997-98 and analyses the changing relationships between business and the Chinese in Indonesia. Using a distinct perspective that combines cultural and structural approaches on Chinese big business with exclusive material derived from interviews with some of Indonesia's major business leaders the author identifies the strategies employed by them to adapt their corporations to the post-authoritarian regime and provides a unique insight into how state-business relations in Indonesia have evolved since the crisis.

Robert Elson, *The Idea of Indonesia: a history.* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Indonesia the nation-state is a miraculous and unlikely construction. At first sight, the material for national unity could not be more unpromising; its history is marred by deep and often bloody internal disputation based on ideology, ethnicity, religion, and region. Yet Indonesia, as concept and as nation-state, endures and is, perhaps, beginning once again to thrive. In this book, R. E. Elson seeks to discover the origins of the idea of Indonesia in the mid-nineteenth century and explores its often vexed and troubled trajectory through to the present time. He examines why Indonesia exists, against the odds, as a nation-state, and in what different forms it has existed, seeking to explain the nation's character as it has struggled for unity and purpose. The analysis provides a chronological narrative which examines Indonesian politics, its political elites and their relationship with the Indonesian people.

Jones, Russell et. al, *Loan-Words in Indonesian and Malay.* Leiden, KITLV Press, 2008.

This is a register of twenty thousand loan-words in Indonesian and Malay, deriving from Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Tamil, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, English and Japanese. Given for each are the Indonesian or Malay headword, the word in the source language, and, for foreign scripts, the page where it is to be found in a bilingual dictionary. Since each headword is provided with an English translation, this is potentially convenient reference base for compilers of dictionaries of European languages who will find it useful to draw on this material to improve their etymologies. More importantly, it provides a resource for researchers into the etymologies of other languages of Asia, a somewhat undeveloped field, since many of the loan-words (from Arabic for example, are veritable Wanderwörter which may turn up anywhere.

Simpson, Bradley, *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian development and U.S.-Indonesian relations, 1960-1968,* Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2008.

This book is the first comprehensive history of U.S. relations with Indonesia during the 1960s and explores one of the central dynamics of international politics during the Cold War: the emergence and U.S. embrace of authoritarian regimes pledged to programs of

military aid development. Drawing on newly declassified archival material, this book examines how Americans and Indonesians imagined the country's development in the 1950s and why they abandoned their democratic hopes in the 1960s in favor of the military regime of General Suharto. At a crucial juncture in modern Indonesian history, the United States found common cause with the Indonesian armed forces and their technocratic allies as the purported guardians of political and economic stability, shaping the country's trajectory in ways that - as Indonesia's fragile transition to democracy illustrates - continues to unfold.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Indonesia ten years after (1998-2008), 22-23 May 2008; Oost Indisch Huis, University of Amsterdam, Kloveniersburgwal 48, Amstersdam. In May it is ten years ago that the Suharto regime came to an end. What has been achieved with respect to political and economic reforms? What are the major constraints? How do religious and ethnic identity politics relate to notions of citizenship? Which new developments can be identified in popular arts? These questions will be addressed by an international group of scholars during this conference organized by KITLV, ASiA and Inside Indonesia. Registration (free): kitlv@kitlv.nl / tel: +31(0)71 5272295.

The Indonesian Regional Science Association (IRSA) is preparing its Ninth International Conference in Palembang, South Sumatera, on July 30-31, 2008, titled "The Current and Future Issues of Regional Development, Energy and Climate Change". The conference is intended to be a media for scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers to discuss and exchange theoretical and empirical findings on the issues of regional development, energy and climate change with particular emphasis on the aspects of governance, public services provision, natural resource and environmental management, investment and business climate, tourism, trade and informal sector, regional growth, poverty and inequality. It is hoped that through this conference participants will exchange experiences and build strong networks for future research, policy discussion, and practical collaboration. Deadline for abstract/paper submission: **April 30, 2008**. To submit your abstract, please send your abstract via e-mail to irsa_sriwijaya@yahoo.com and irsa2008@pps.unsri.ac.id. Website: <http://www.irsa.or.id/>

ICAS 6 will be hosted by the Chungnam National University (CNU) in Daejeon, Korea, 6-9 August 2009. The overarching theme is: Think Asia! More than 1,500 Asia Studies specialists are expected to come to Daejeon. Details of deadlines, book prizes and financial support are available on the website. The deadline for the submission of individual abstracts is **15 October 2008**. Please note that all abstracts and presentations should be in English. Submission of abstracts for panels and papers can be made through ICAS 6 registration forms available at <http://www.icassecretariat.org> For more information on ICAS 6 and requirements for participation, please visit <http://www.icassecretariat.org>

Conference on Literature and History, Macquarie Univeristy, Thursday 24 – Friday 25 July 2008. Debates about the relationship between literature and history have long haunted literary practice, history and criticism. For some, historicism can be seen as a form of hermeneutical aggression, for others it provides the key to the literary representation of

psychological and cultural phenomena. The archive, viewed from these diverging perspectives, obfuscates or illuminates. Recent flirtations with reading literally have been equally contentious, shifting the focus away from aesthetics towards the traces of material culture that clutter narrative space with forgotten or repressed histories. Submission Deadline: **30 April** - Proposals should be 250-300 words in length and sent via email to: conference@aal.asn.au. Visit the conference website for full details at <http://www.aal.asn.au/conference/>.

"Sexuality, Textuality, Image", the Second CISSGE Postgraduate Conference University of Exeter 12th September 2008. The University of Exeter is delighted to host "Sexuality, Textuality, Image": the second postgraduate conference of the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Sexuality and Gender in Europe (CISSGE). Sexuality, Textuality, Image will provide a forum in which researchers can explore the aesthetic, theoretical and cultural issues of representation which are at play in texts and images, with a particular focus on the concept of sexuality. We welcome papers which explore the tensions of representation in a variety of texts - including art, film, photography, drama, literature and media forms - in order to address some of the key questions surrounding textuality and imagery. To what extent can images be read as texts, and texts as images? What discursive and iconographic issues can be said to surround specific texts? Suggested topics include: * Intertextuality and adaptation * The politics and poetics of pornography * The relationship between the high and the popular * Masculinity/male studies * Depictions of normative and non-normative sexualities * The processes and pedagogies of reading images as texts, and texts as images We hope to contextualise these questions in relation to contemporary culture, art history, performativity, queer theories, feminist theories, transgender theories and approaches which may fall outside this aegis - including bisexuality studies, masculinity studies, and heterosexuality studies. Please send expressions of interest/ abstracts (200 words max.) to Michelle Parslow (M.L.Parslow@exeter.ac.uk) by **31 May 2008**.

Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts, 25 - 26 September 2008, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. The increasing scale and quickening pace of transnational migration and mobility has brought about increasing levels and forms of social diversity in societies and communities in many parts of the world. In general, huge migrations and movements of peoples, along with their ideas, beliefs and practices, are taking place and resulting in unprecedented diversities of populations and communities living together. This has led to growing concern and widening debate on the ways and means of coping with difference. In Western "immigration countries" such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Denmark and Holland in the European Union and others such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the concerns and debates variously focus around the discourses and practices of "multiculturalism", "integration", "rights and responsibilities", "social cohesion", "social inclusion", "cosmopolitanism" and "unity in diversity", with much attention paid to the often overlapping dimensions of class, ethnicity and religion. In contrast, there has been relatively little attention given to the growing diversity in countries, cities and communities in Asia. While issues and debates are also variously emerging over 'multiculturalism', 'integration', 'rights and responsibilities', 'social cohesion', 'cosmopolitanism' and 'diversity' in some of these Asian settings, their processes, meanings and significances need to be understood within their contexts which are constituted by highly distinct and varied postcolonial histories, cultures, geographies,

and political economies. This research workshop has the following aims: 1. to explore and understand the changing landscape of migration and diversity in various Asian contexts, 2. to understand the emerging major discourses, debates and issues on diversity, 3. to examine current dominant approaches in scholarship, policy and practice on migration and diversity, towards better understanding and management of diversities in Asian contexts, and 4. to identify key areas for further in-depth research. Abstracts of papers should be received by 30 April 2008. The abstract should be no longer than 500 words and should include a description of the topic, theoretical focus, methodology, and (expected) findings. The author making the submission must provide the full name(s), affiliations, phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses of all co-authors (please underline the presenter of the paper). Acceptance of papers will be notified by **13 June 2008**. A draft of the completed paper should be submitted by 22 Aug 2008. Abstracts should be submitted simultaneously to both the following: Lai Ah Eng (main organiser) arilae@nus.edu.sg and Francis Leo Collins (co-organiser) ariclf@nus.edu.sg

Re-Orienting Whiteness, University of Melbourne, 3-5 December 2008. Following the success of the Historicising Whiteness conference of 2006, Re-Orienting Whiteness continues the critical engagement with whiteness studies. This time in conjunction with the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association, Re-Orienting Whiteness 2008 invites scholars to explore the potential, or otherwise, of whiteness, to analyse the operations of race, past and present. Our central aim is to bring whiteness studies into a closer conversation with other approaches to race, particularly those which have emerged from studies of colonialism and postcolonial theory. There has been remarkably little cross fertilisation between these areas of scholarship, despite the many obvious synergies between them. We seek to foreground this tension as a fundamental challenge for the field. We envision the conference traversing a variety of countries, periods, methodologies and theoretical concepts, bringing together scholars of diverse backgrounds and interests. Broadening out from the (settler colonial) context of the United States, we wish to explore how whiteness operated in colonial and non-colonial contexts across the globe. Possible themes include: Indigenous perspectives on whiteness, The politics of pology/assimilation/sovereignty/restitution/power, Whiteness in the colonial/settler colonial encounter, Whiteness in non-colonial contexts, The gendered privileges of whiteness, The chronology of whiteness: visibility/invisibility, Cultures, representations, borderlands, bodies, transformations, How important were global imperial processes to the operation of white power?, Does whiteness even matter?. Please send 200 word abstracts, along with a brief half-page CV, by **29 August 2008** to: reorientingwhiteness@gmail.com . Proposals for panels of up to three speakers are most welcome. Website: coming soon to <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/historical-studies/news-and-events/index.php>

Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference 2008: Challenges of the 21st Century, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, 6 June 2008. Registration is free, however, travel and accommodation expenses must be covered by the conference applicant. The 2008 Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (IGC) aims to bring together postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers across the sciences, humanities and social sciences in order to explore the varied challenges of the 21st Century. Organised by the School of Physical Sciences and the School of the Humanities & Social Sciences, we invite abstract proposals from postgrads and postdocs across Cambridge University and beyond. Papers can be presented on any subject relating to the conference theme.

Possible topics include: Climate (Global warming, energy), Information Technology (privacy, social networking, data mining, communication, image overload); Medicine (stem cell research, cancer, Aids, cloning, bio ethics); Terrorism; Human rights; Demographic change (aging populations, immigration/migration); Globalisation (changing conceptions of citizenship, identity, transnational corporations); Space Technology (the future of space exploration, nanotube space elevators). We encourage you to think creatively, the theme is a starting point to ensure a range of contributors across the disciplines. Please send 300 word abstract proposals (making clear whether you are applying to present a 15 minute talk or a poster) to soc-igc@lists.cam.ac.uk. Please also include a brief paragraph detailing where you study, what your area of research is, what year you are in and so on. Group presentations are welcome. The deadline for applications is Friday 25th April. For more information please contact soc-igc@lists.cam.ac.uk or go on to the conference website <http://groups.pwf.cam.ac.uk/CGRADC/>

MUSIC AND MOVEMENTS IN INDONESIAN CULTURE conference/workshops to be held at the Indonesian Consulate of Sydney, Maroubra from 7-9 October 2008. Morning presentations and afternoon workshops around the central topic of Indonesian music, dance and culture. Abstract submissions for presentations, speed papers and workshop proposals close on **31 May**. The aim of this conference is to connect post-graduate, post-doctorate as well as established researchers working in the fields of Indonesian art, music, dance and culture as well as dance anthropology, ethnomusicology, cross-cultural studies etc. This three day symposium will feature a mixture of morning presentations and afternoon workshops. There will be a special speed-paper session for those researchers who are looking to network without the grief of having to prepare an entire presentation! Speed papers are quick five-minute four-power-point slide presentations that briefly cover your research topic, thus allowing you to introduce yourself to new colleagues and perhaps intriguing a few people from outside of your field in the process! For more information, please visit the website: <http://culturalevents.sobriquet.net/> or email: culturalevents@sobriquet.net

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESEARCH/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Australia-Netherlands Research Collaboration invites applications from individuals currently enrolled in a PhD program in an Australian university who are researching Southeast Asia. Funding is available for students to conduct specific, defined tasks in the Netherlands related to their PhD. These tasks could include fieldwork, consulting an archive or library, engaging in language or disciplinary study, or consulting academic experts. Funds will cover economy class return travel between Australia and the Netherlands plus a living allowance for a period of between one and six months. The research must occur within the term of the PhD enrolment, and take place in the period 2008 – 2011. Up to three Fellowships will be offered in this round. It is planned that further fellowships will be offered in 2009 and 2010, depending on funding. For PhD Travel Fellowship funding guidelines and selection criteria, go to www.aust-neth.net or contact Helen.McMartin@anu.edu.au, tel 02 6125 0693. Closing date is Friday, **15 May 2008**.

\$6,000 Scholarship for study in any field of South-East Asian Studies. The Australian Federation of University Women's E. M. Hinder Award, Value \$6,000. Closing Date 30 June 2008. Eligibility: Available in any field of South East Asian studies to women postgraduate students in any Australian university who have completed at least one year of postgraduate study and to women holding a postdoctoral fellowship. The award is to be used for undertaking an overseas project specific to the applicant's current research. Relevant projects could include fieldwork, archival consultation, on-site interviews. Related overseas conference participation would be acceptable as part of the project. For the purposes of this award, South-East Asia is defined as comprised of the following countries: Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (Australian Bureau of Statistics). Tenure: Project may be commenced in 2008 or 2009 (see Guidelines). For Guidelines and Application Form visit the Scholarships Page on the AFUW website: www.afuw.org.au.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Fellow, College of Asia and the Pacific Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies Department of Anthropology, ANU. Fixed Term: 1-3 years Academic Level A/B. The Department of Anthropology is seeking to appoint a scholar with a record of field research in Indonesia to participate in a three-year social assessment study associated with a major mining development in Sulawesi. You will work with scholars at the Australian National University and two Indonesian universities in implementing a program of field research and training of local researchers in social assessment. You will be expected to spend around nine months of each year in field research and field supervision in Southeast and Central Sulawesi. In addition to providing reports to the mining company, as a research academic at the ANU, you would be expected to publish research findings in scholarly journals. You should be an experienced and committed fieldworker fluent in Indonesian. Experience in applied research and/or development practice will be an advantage. The position is contingent on expected funding becoming available. Further particulars, including selection criteria, are available from: Human Resources , phone 02 6125 4444, e-mail jobsacademic.cap@anu.edu.au or http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/Jobs/Academic_Positions/PDF/PA4738.pdf. If you wish to discuss the position after obtaining the selection documentation, please contact: Professor Kathryn Robinson, phone 02 6125 3279, e-mail Kathryn.robinson@anu.edu.au. Closing Date: **16 May 2008**.

2 positions university lecturer Asian Studies/General Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. Two assistant professors of Anthropology and/or Non-Western Sociology 38 hours per week, or 1.0 fte. The new assistant professors are expected to spend 60% of their time on education and 40% of their time on research. Profile completed doctoral thesis in the field of the social sciences (focus on Southeast Asia encouraged); publications in international "peer reviewed" periodicals and/or in books published by internationally recognised presses; broad knowledge in the field of General Anthropology and/or Non-Western Sociology; specialist expertise in a field related to one of the ASSR's research clusters; thorough mastery of qualitative and/or quantitative methods and techniques of social-scientific research; capable to teach and motivate students at both basic and advanced levels; in a fairly short term: perfect passive, and adequate active

knowledge of Dutch. For more information about this position, please contact the Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Dr. Peter van Rooden (p.t.vanrooden@uva.nl) Information about the department's research can be found on the website: <http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/assr/index.html>. Send applications by **4 April** to C. Garofalo, Office Manager, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Oudezijdsachterburgwal 185, 1012 DK Amsterdam (socasecretariaat@fmg.uva.nl).

The Department of Malay Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore invites applications for the position of Assistant Professor specializing in both the areas of Malay literature and Malay society. Preference would be given to candidates whose research and teaching areas straddle the literary and sociological aspects of Malay society. Candidates must have a PhD preferably in Malay Studies by the time of appointment as well as show promise for establishing a strong research programme. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and develop both undergraduate and postgraduate modules in the areas of classical and modern Malay/Indonesian literature as well as Malay society. Candidates must be able to teach in both Malay and English and demonstrate versatility in their teaching experiences and research interest. Interested candidates must submit their applications together with the following: 1. Full Curriculum Vitae together with the names and complete contact details of three academic referees. 2. A statement (max. 2 pages) of teaching interests, teaching philosophy and methodology as well as past teaching evaluations. 3. A statement (max 2 pages) detailing research interests and agenda. Submit all documents by **30 April 2008** to: Chair, Department of Malay Studies Search Committee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 11, Arts Link, Singapore 117570. Only short-listed candidates will be notified and invited for a campus visit. Enquiries about this position can be directed to the secretary of the Malay Studies Department at mlssec@nus.edu.sg; Fax: +65-67732980.